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Summary record of the 13th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 22 October 1999, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Ms. Wensley ..... (Australia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 169: Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (*continued*) (A/C.5/54/L.4)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.4

1. **Mr. Darwish** (Egypt), coordinator of the consultations on draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.4, invited the Committee to adopt it without a vote since consensus had been achieved.

2. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should adopt draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.4 without a vote.

3. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.4 was adopted.*

4. **Ms. Powles** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Canada and Australia, welcomed the adoption by consensus of the draft resolution on the financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor.

5. **Mr. Takahara** (Japan) also welcomed the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.4 by consensus, but regretted the fact that it had taken two weeks to attain that outcome. In the case of the financing of a particularly difficult mission, such as the United Nations Mission in East Timor, everything must be done to allow the General Assembly to take the necessary decisions quickly.

6. **Ms. Shearouse** (United States of America) said that her delegation had welcomed the establishment in May of the United Nations Mission in East Timor. She regretted the fact that it had taken two weeks to formulate draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.4, but firmly supported the text adopted, which would provide the Secretary-General with the resources he needed for the first two phases of the Mission and for preparation of phase III.

Agenda item 119: Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

Development Account (*continued*) (A/C.5/54/L.7 and A/C.5/54/L.11/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.11/Rev.1

7. **Mr. Odaga-Jlomayo** (Uganda) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.11/Rev.1, which reflected a consensus achieved after extremely difficult and protracted negotiations. He commended delegations on their spirit of compromise and thanked the Secretariat officials for the exceptional dedication and competence which they had demonstrated throughout the negotiations. He recommended that the Committee should adopt draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.11/Rev.1 without a vote.

8. **Mr. Barnwell** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, thanked the coordinator for his efforts to have the views of all delegations reflected in draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.11/Rev.1. The Group of 77 and China were withdrawing the draft resolution which they had introduced in document A/C.5/54/L.7, but reserved the right to explain their position when draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.11/Rev.1 was adopted by the General Assembly.

9. **The Chairman** said that she would take it that draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.7 had been withdrawn by its sponsors.

10. *It was so decided.*

11. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.11/Rev.1 without a vote.

12. *Draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.11/Rev.1 was adopted.*

13. **Mr. Sareva** (Finland) said that the European Union reserved the right to explain its position on the question when the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution.

14. **Ms. Cardoze** (Panama) drew the Secretariat's attention to an editorial correction required in the Spanish version of the draft resolution.

15. **Mr. Takahara** (Japan) recalled that it was Japan which had suggested reinvesting the savings achieved through productivity gains in the context of reform of the Organization in innovative economic and social activities. He thus welcomed the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.11/Rev.1, which provided for the establishment of a multi-year account which would fund a vast range of projects. His delegation attached great importance to sustainability of the Development Account and welcomed the fact that the draft resolution had assured it by providing that savings transferred to the Development Account section should form the maintenance base for that section in future proposed programme budgets. The Account should be operated strictly in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. His delegation trusted that efficiency measures would be further strengthened in a transparent manner; that would allow further resources to be freed and the funds in the account to be used expeditiously so that the new mechanism would soon give rise to tangible results.

16. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that her delegation reserved the right to explain its position on the question in the plenary Assembly.

17. **Ms. Powles** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Canada and Australia, said that in approving the creation of the Development Account the Committee had sought to support the Secretary-General's programme of reform by

endorsing a measure which was aimed not at shrinking the budget envelope but at encouraging programme managers and staff to seek greater efficiency. The reform of the Organization was critical to its future. Adoption of results-based budgeting was another very important proposal that the Committee must consider without delay.

18. **Mr. Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic) drew the Secretariat's attention to an editorial correction required in the Arabic version of the draft resolution.

19. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said that his delegation reserved the right to explain its position in the plenary Assembly when the draft resolution was adopted.

20. **Ms. Shearouse** (United States of America) said that her delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution reluctantly. The United States had always supported the idea of a development account, but regretted that the initial proposal, which was to set up an account financed solely by savings arising from productivity gains, and not a new budget section funded through assessments, had been abandoned. The United States trusted that the Account would be managed in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and that it would be subject to the same procedures for review and approval as the other sections of the budget.

The meeting rose 10.50 a.m.